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Thursday, September 22, 2016 metro.us | t: MetroNewYork | f: MetroNewYork



MARK-PAUL GOSSELAAR IS BACK

In his newest role, the actor goes to the major leagues. 24-25

Ferry boat captain lands role in 'Sully.' 2

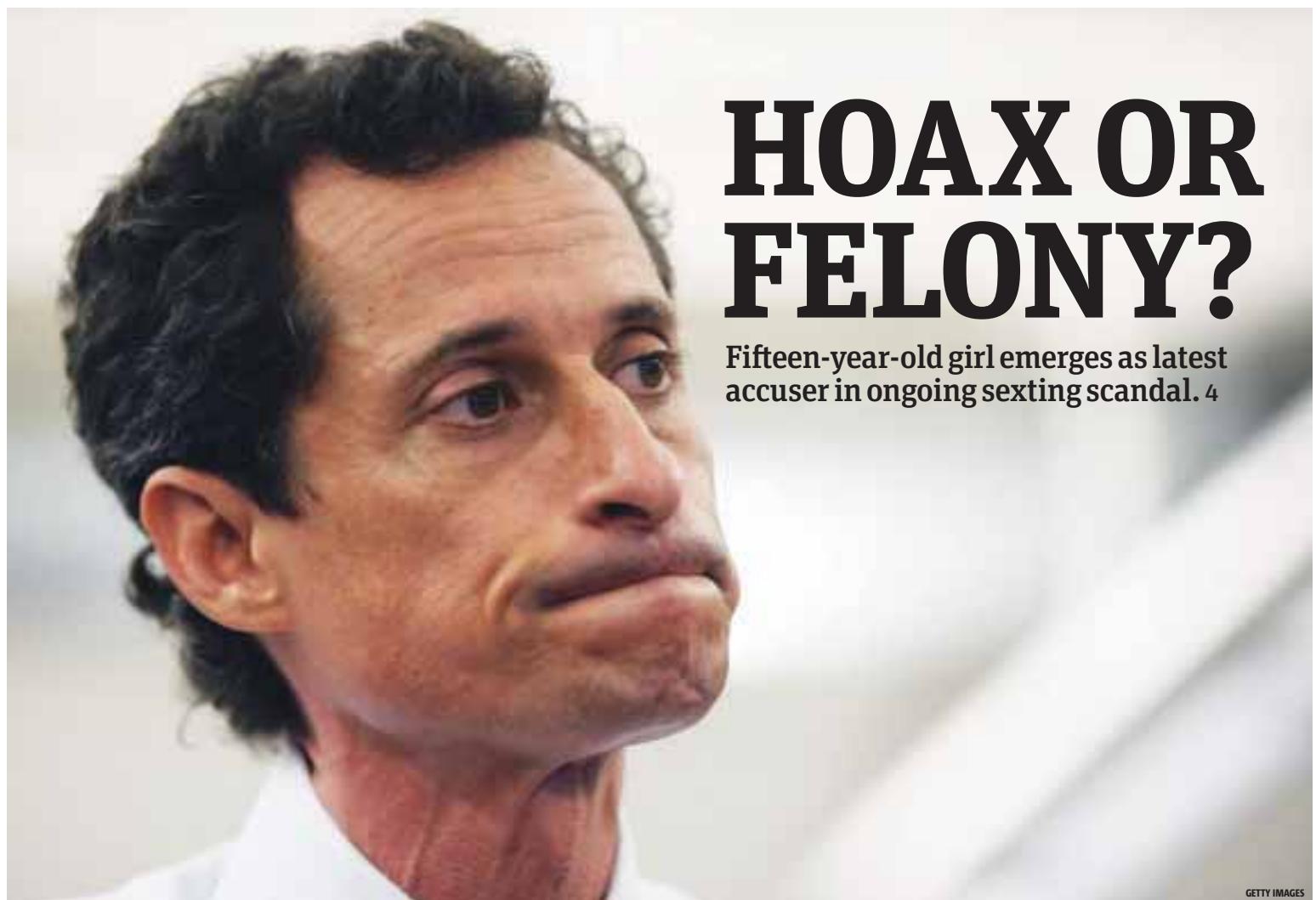
Giants' Shepard highly impressive. 34

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HOAX OR FELONY?

Fifteen-year-old girl emerges as latest accuser in ongoing sexting scandal. 4



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October 4



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October 5



Westchester
West Harrison
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October 6

3 things you need to know

SCHOOLS CLOSE IN CANADIAN PROVINCE AFTER BOMB THREAT

1 Canadian police evacuated all schools in the eastern province of Prince Edward Island on Wednesday after a bomb threat, but found no explosive device. About 19,000 students at 62 schools were taken to safe locations in their communities around the island off Canada's Atlantic coast. It is the country's smallest province with a population of about 146,000. "The minister of public safety just informed me that all of the schools' children and personnel are safe. The situation is under control," Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said at a news conference in Ottawa. In Prince Edward Island's capital of Charlottetown, Royal Canadian Mounted Police Sergeant Kevin Bailey said at a press conference he was aware of separate threats in the nearby province of Nova Scotia and the United States. [REUTERS](#)

**POLICE IN CHARLOTTE SAY SHOOTING VICTIM WAS ARMED**

2 A black man killed by police in a Charlotte, North Carolina, parking lot had ignored commands to drop a handgun that officers said he was holding, authorities said on Wednesday hours after 16 officers were injured in protests sparked by the shooting. The trouble in Charlotte unfolded as demonstrators in Tulsa, Oklahoma, demanded the arrest of a police officer there who was seen on video shooting to death an unarmed black man who had his hands in clear view at the time. The two deaths were the latest to raise questions of racial bias in U.S. law enforcement and have stoked a national debate on policing ahead of the U.S. presidential election in November. [REUTERS](#)

GOOGLE LAUNCHES ALLO, BETS ON AI TO SPICE UP CHATS

3 Google-parent Alphabet Inc launched Allo, a messaging app that incorporates Google's search feature and a chatbot that uses machine learning to "improve" itself over time. The new messaging service, which was unveiled in May, will compete with Facebook Inc's WhatsApp and Messenger. The much-anticipated launch comes a month after Google rolled out Duo, its video calling app. Allo features a chatbot powered by Google Assistant, a virtual personal assistant like Apple Inc's Siri. Users can call up the assistant in a chat by typing "@google" followed by a search query and the results will be displayed in the chat itself. "The more you use it, the more it improves over time," Amit Fulay, group product manager, wrote in a blog post. [REUTERS](#)

**METRO'S NEWS QUIZ**

You read Metro to stay on top of the news. Now's your chance to find out how much you know. Take our daily news quiz to test your knowledge by going to www.metro.us/news-quiz to submit your answers.

1. In the movie "Sully," what New Yorker is playing himself?
2. What's the topic of Sid Rosenberg's column this week?
3. What position does Mark-Paul Gosselaar's character play in "Pitch"?



A US Airways plane comes to rest in the water near Battery Park after crashing into the Hudson River in the afternoon on Jan. 15, 2009. [GETTY IMAGES](#)

Ferry captain lands role in 'Sully' after Hudson River rescue

Capt. Vince Lombardi's ferry was the first vessel to reach Flight 1549 after it had ditched in the Hudson River.

ERIC GIRARD
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Capt. Vince Lombardi had just started what was supposed to be a routine trip for his NY Waterway ferry, an eight-minute run across the Hudson River from Pier 79 in Manhattan to Weehawken, New Jersey.

The run proved to be anything but routine.

When an airliner carrying 155 people plunged into the Hudson on that winter day in 2009, Lombardi's ferry was first on the scene and what transpired became the most successful marine rescue in aviation history.

Now, with moviegoers reliving the "Miracle on the Hudson" in riveting suspense with the new film "Sully," Lombardi is no longer just a hero. He's

also a movie star.

Lombardi, who plays himself in the film, vividly recalls that day.

On the afternoon of Jan. 15, 2009, a US Airways Airbus took off from LaGuardia Airport and struck a flock of birds, shutting down both jet engines. With no time to get to an airport, pilot Chesley Sullenberger landed the plane on the Hudson.

As Lombardi headed for Weehawken, he spotted the airliner bobbing in the 36-degree water just off the Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum.

Within three minutes, his ferry arrived at the site, where, as many remember from the iconic photo, passengers waited on the wings of the plane. Everyone survived; 143 were rescued by NY Waterway crews from seven boats, while the rest were saved by the Coast Guard and the New York City Fire Department.

"I consider myself lucky to have been there," said Lombardi, 39, who lives in Woodland Park, New Jersey. "Every other captain in the company

could've done what I did. But to me, it was proof of myself, of my ability and my character."

Coincidentally, in January 2009, NY Waterway, which operates out of four terminals in Manhattan in addition to several in New Jersey, had begun installing Jason's Cradles — a ladder-like device deckhands can activate in one minute — on its boats. Without it, survivors would've had difficulty climbing the 7 feet from the waterline to the deck of the ferry.

"I can't imagine better equipment unless somebody comes along with a beam-me-up-Scotty device," Lombardi said.

For him, the toughest part of the rescue was constantly repositioning his ferry. "The tide kept pushing the airplane toward the boat," Lombardi said. "I had to keep using the reverse throttle."

He thought "Sully," directed by Clint Eastwood and starring Tom Hanks, was spot-on in its depiction of the afternoon's events.

Lombardi is still a NY Waterway captain, but af-

ter his taste of big-screen fame, he might like to dive into more movie roles.

"I didn't actually work with Hanks," he said. "But he talked with me and my wife at the premiere. He told me, good job. ... I wouldn't put myself on the same level as Hanks and Bruce Willis, but if Eastwood approached me and said he'd like to do a remake of 'The Sons of Katie Elder,' I'd be on board for that."

Though rescuing of the passengers and crew from Flight 1549 was an extraordinary feat, NY Waterway has consistently taken pride in its river safety efforts.

"We've always considered ourselves first responders," Lombardi said. "We're a small navy out there."

Crews frequently drill in water rescues. Many of their rescues involve capsized boats. In July, NY Waterway Adm. Richard Bennis saved a man who had jumped into the river from the shore.

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Weiner could do time for 'sick' sexting with teen

Weiner could be looking at sex-offender registration and prison time, a legal expert said.

 **AMANDA MIKELBERG**
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Anthony Weiner is in big trouble.

Less than a month since his last indiscretion ended his marriage with Huma Abedin, would-be mayor Anthony Weiner is back in the news for a sexting scandal involving a child.

Weiner, 51, is now accused of a graphic online relationship with a 15-year-old girl that involved sexting, semi-nude photos of himself, and discussion of "rape-fantasies," an article from the Daily Mail claimed Wednesday.

In a comment to the Daily Mail, Weiner both apologized — and claimed that he is the victim of a hoax. But he did not specifically deny sending the messages and photos.

Gov. Andrew Cuomo seemed disgusted by the reports. "I've read the reports and let me say

this: if the reports are true, it's possibly criminal and it is sick," Cuomo remarked to the media on Wednesday.

"And frankly, I've heard enough about Anthony Weiner and I think that goes for all New Yorkers."

The high school girl claims Weiner was aware of her age when they began the cyber-relationship in January that continued for months. The teen sent the Daily Mail dozens of screen shots of her chats with Weiner in which he repeatedly compliments her body and shares fantasies of him coming to her house, in a different state, when her father is not there.

In one message he jokes, "And now I'm going to be on dateline."

The most lurid of screen grabs were taken while the two were communicating through Confide, an app that deletes messages after they are viewed. In those screen grabs, Weiner appears to express his desire to have sex with her in such a way that she might be in pain afterward.

Weiner's response to the Daily Mail's story:

"I have repeatedly demonstrated terrible judgment about the

people I have communicated with online and the things I have sent. I am filled with regret and heartbroken for those I have hurt.

"While I have provided the Daily Mail with information showing that I have likely been the subject of a hoax, I have no one to blame but me for putting myself in this position.

"I am sorry."

Did he commit any crimes?

Timothy Parlato, a white-collar criminal defense attorney in New York, told Metro that Weiner will have a difficult time defending himself against potential charges of endangering the welfare of a child.

"Endangering the welfare of a child — that does not require it to be sexual. Engaging in any activity that could potentially endanger the mental or physical health of a child could carry federal charges. Especially if he tried to get her to cross state lines."

Parlato said that with federal and New York state statutes there are variations of laws against promoting the

sexual performance of a minor. And if the girl at any point did take off her clothes for Weiner, there could be other charges related to child pornography.

"Is he looking at sex offender registration? Yes. Is he looking at federal prison and or state prison? Yes. In each situation he seems to push the envelope to something more extreme which shows some sort of mental health issue, but is that something that can be used as defense? No. he's given way too many press conferences where he admits where

he was wrong and shows remorse. So there's no way he could go into a courtroom and say it's a mental problem."

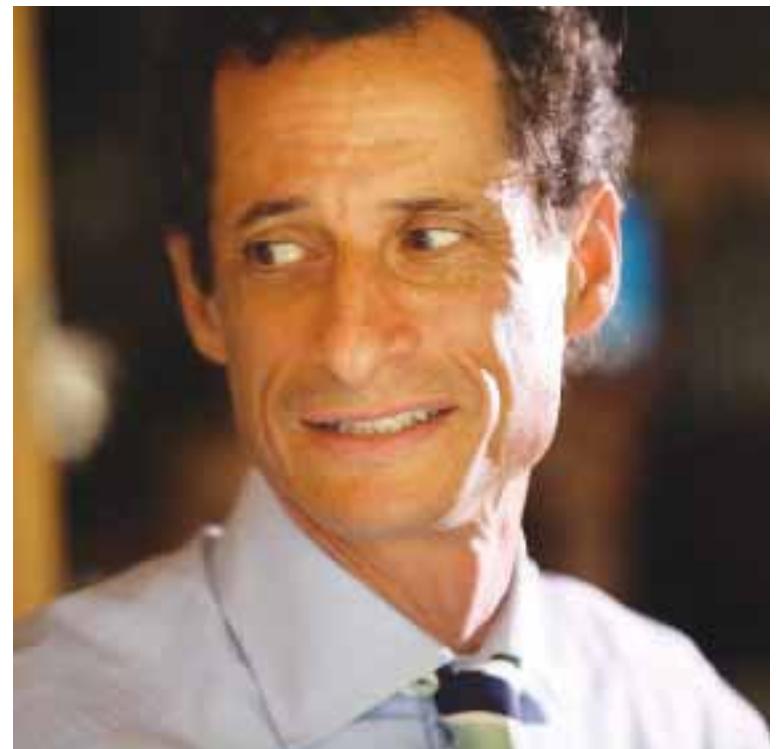
On Aug. 29, Huma Abedin, a top aide to Hillary Clinton, announced that she is separating from Weiner amid news of a different new sexting scandal. That time, Weiner had sent a clothed, waist-down photo of himself in bed next to his 5-year-old son sleeping inches away, to a woman he said he was friends with "for some time."

Earlier in September, Weiner confirmed to The

New York Times that he is currently being investigated by child services (ACS) stemming from the photo.

Like his previous indiscretions with women such as Sydney Leathers, there does not seem to be evidence that he made any physical contact with his online contacts.

"All of these relationships, none of them have ever left the realm of his phone," added Parlato. "It would be an interesting defense that his psychosis is phone-based and never actually intends to move past the phone."



Anthony Weiner GETTY IMAGES

FBI seeks pair who found suitcase containing pressure-cooker bomb

The FBI released a photo Wednesday of the two people who might have handled the pressure-cooker bomb believed to have been planted by Ahmad Kahn Rahami on West 27th Street between Sixth and Seventh Avenues in Chelsea.

Within an hour after the explosion on West 23rd Street that injured 29 people, another unexploded bomb made from

a pressure cooker and a cellphone was found on the sidewalk.

The image taken from surveillance footage shows what appears to be two well-groomed men confidently walking down the sidewalk on Sept. 17.

The two men, caught on surveillance video footage, are considered potential witnesses, not suspects, in the bombing, said Robert

Boyce, chief of detectives for the New York City Police Department.

"They looked like they were two gentlemen just strolling up and down Seventh Avenue at the time. We have no information that would link them to this at all," Boyce said at a briefing. "However, we still want to talk to them, obviously."

Boyce said the two men were seen picking up the bag containing



These two men stumbled on a dynamite find. FBI

the device, removing it and then leaving with the bag, for reasons that remains unclear.

"Once they picked up the bag, they seemed incredulous they had actually picked this up off the street and they walked off with it," Boyce said. "So we'll find out, we'll put their images

out. Hopefully we can get them identified."

Anyone with information concerning the case is asked to call the FBI's toll-free tip line at 1-800-225-5324 (1-800-CALL-FBI), your local law enforcement or the nearest American Embassy or Consulate.

AMANDA MIKELBERG

BRIEFS

Suspicious package briefly shuts down Times Square
A suspicious package sparked a brief shutdown of a section of Times Square Wednesday morning.

The NYPD Bomb Squad rushed to the scene on 42nd Street between Eighth and Seventh avenues at around 9 a.m. and closed off streets in the vicinity for more than an hour, according to reports. Police roped off an area in front of a McDonald's and people who work in buildings in the area were told to stay away, Fox5 reported.

No one was allowed to enter or exit the 42nd Street subway station, Fox5 reported, disabling a major point of transportation during morning rush hour. **KIMBERLY M. AQUILINA**

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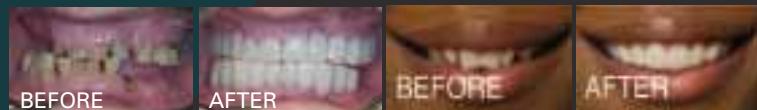
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Taste of Red Hook expands more than waistlines

Annual fundraiser in Brooklyn's waterfront neighborhood helps community programs grow.

KIMBERLY AQUILINA
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Ten years ago, five or six new restaurants brought their food to a house in Brooklyn. Less than 100 people bought tickets for a tasting of the new businesses' wares. More than \$10,000 was raised for the Red Hook Initiative, a community nonprofit.

It was a success.

This year, tickets for the Taste of Red Hook are on sale for the Sept. 27 event, only this time, it isn't in a house and there will be at least 50 vendors offering samples of beer, wine, spirits and of course, food.

Ben Schneider built and runs The Good Fork, 391 Van Brunt Street, Brooklyn, an eclectic "globetrotting" restaurant with "one foot in fine dining and the other in comfort food," as he describes it. His wife, chef Suhui Kim, is the one who keeps the kitchen inspired.

Ten years ago, Schneider and his wife brought a pot of gumbo to the first Taste of Red Hook. This year, they will be sharing their own take on shrimp



PROVIDED

toast.

"It definitely has become quite an event," Schneider said. "It's always been well produced, and each year we'd see more and more restaurants and more from Brooklyn get added to the roster, and it's grown every year. I think it's something people really enjoy going to now."

"It's still a benefit, but it's something on the map and something on the calendar. It's a chance for local businesses to hang out with one another, taste each other's wares, and it's become a little bit of a party in a good way."

Since the vendors donate the food and drink, all of the proceeds from the Taste of Red Hook go directly to the Red Hook Initiative, which sends it back into the community, said Jill Eisenhard, founder and executive director of the organization.

The Red Hook Initiative is a nonprofit that has been around as long as its fundraiser. It serves as an anchor for the community, providing after-school programs, summer programs, employment training and serving as a refuge in emergencies like Superstorm Sandy until government can provide relief.

Middle school and high school students are trained as peer mentors, researchers, community liaisons and even give presentations to government agencies like the Department of Education.

"Pretty much anything that is happening in the community, we are making sure the residents have a voice in what's happening and are able to have a say of what's going on in their own community and make sure their voices are heard on how their public dollars are being spent," Eisenhard said.

Red Hook Initiative doesn't just give to the

community, it is the community, Eisenhard added. Of the 125 high school and full-time adult employees, 90 percent are from the community.

"Because we're fairly small — our budget for the year is \$3 million — we don't have a lot of overhead, so really every year because we employ so many local people, \$1 million of our budget goes directly back into the community through staff salary or vendor agreements," Eisenhard said. "It keeps it very local."

You have workers who can walk with extra money in their pocket

because they don't need a Metro card and they're saving. They're then spending that money locally because they aren't leaving the community that often."

And when a restaurant needs a dishwasher or someone to bus tables? Eisenhard said restaurants reach out to the Red Hook Initiative. And why stop at washing dishes? With the Red Hook Initiative's chef training program, Taste of Red Hook ticket holders can taste the future of Red Hook cuisine.

With 8,000 people living in the second largest unit of public housing in the city, Red Hook West Houses and Red Hook East Houses, as a backdrop to new development and million dollar homes being built along the waterfront, Eisenhard said it is very much "Tale of Two Cities" that plays out in Red Hook.

For some, Taste of Red Hook is their debutante ball — their introduction to the Red Hook restaurants scene.

For Schneider: "Even though it has grown as an event, it still has that community sense that it did that first year when we did it at somebody's house. It's still an excuse for everyone in the community to see each other and break bread together."

For tickets or ticket information, visit the event's webpage or the event page on Facebook.

East Village Lenin statue toppled

Call it a coup. Vladimir Lenin, in statue form, was toppled in the dark of night.

The 18-foot statue of the communist revolutionary had stood as a quirky neighborhood fixture atop an apartment building named Red Square on East Houston Street since 1994. Sometime on Monday night a crew swept him off his feet.

The 13-story building

built in 1989 is reportedly up for sale, which could explain Lenin's displacement. In August it was reported that Dermot Co. was eyeing the \$100 million purchase, although there's not yet been an official sale.

"When I opened the door I saw the impressive statue on the street on the truck," Angel Orensanz, president of the nearby Angel Orensanz Center for the arts, told Metro. Oren-

sanz managed to snap photos of the statue as it was being relocated.

"It's spectacular, five meters big. Been there for a long time," he remarked.

The Lenin effigy did not have to cross Siberia — just the street — to find refuge. Photos Orensanz took Wednesday showed the statue relocated to the rooftop of another, nearby building at 178 Norfolk Street.

The statue was originally a USSR-commissioned piece by artist Yuri Gerasimov and was supposed to go on public display, but its exhibition was scuttled during the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991.

Supposedly, the building's current owner Michael Rosen purchased the statue after it was discovered in the backyard of a house near Moscow.

AMANDA MIKELBERG



Vladimir Lenin statue ANGEL ORENSANZ

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New York Public Library installs \$2.6M 'Book Train' conveyor system

Several renovated areas of the library will reopen Oct. 5.

Last week, the New York Public Library released stunning photographs of the renovation of its historic Rose Main Reading Room and Bill Blass Public Catalog Room, along with news that the spaces would be reopening to the public on Oct. 5.

As of this day, when guests request research materials, they'll come from a new, \$23 million state-of-the-art storage facility below Bryant Park. To bring the materials up, the library installed an innovative conveyor system known as the "book train," which, according to a press release, "consists of 24 individual red cars that run on rails and can seamlessly and automatically transition from horizontal to vertical motion," transporting up to 30 pounds of materials at a time in just five minutes.

The storage facility

came after a previous, controversial plan to move the research collection to New Jersey. As 6sqft explained, "The new space will hold 4.3 million research volumes, allowing the library to 'fill over 90 percent of research requests with materials located on-site."

The conveyor system, developed by NJ-based company Teledynamic, cost an additional \$2.6 million and replaced the old system in which boxes of materials were placed on a series of conveyor belts. The new "book train" runs on 950 of vertical and horizontal tracks and, traveling at 75 feet per minute, moves materials through 11 levels of the library, or 375 feet. It will go from the Milstein Stacks (the underground facility) to both the Rose Main Reading Room and the first floor. Library staff can even track their requests, as the system has electronic sensors installed on the rails.

DANA SCHULZ



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Mylan Inc. CEO Heather Bresch is sworn in during a hearing before the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee. GETTY IMAGES

Lawmakers grill Mylan CEO over EpiPen steep price increases

The EpiPen is an automatic injector designed to treat life-threatening allergic reactions to anything from nuts to bee stings, delivering a dose of epinephrine through a quick jab in the thigh.

U.S. lawmakers on Wednesday blasted steep price increases for Mylan's EpiPen emergency allergy treatment as they grilled the company's Chief Executive Heather Bresch at a congressional hearing. The House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform called Bresch to testify after the company raised the list price for a pair of EpiPens to \$600 compared with \$100 in 2007, when it acquired the product.

Congressman Elijah Cummings, ranking Democrat on the committee, said Mylan "jacked up" the price of the life-saving product "to get filthy rich at the expense of our constituents."

"After Mylan takes our punches they'll fly back to their mansions in their private jets and laugh all the way to the bank," Cummings said.

The price increases ignited a national controversy in August, as a growing number of families protested and said they were unable to afford the device through their health insurance.

Committee Chairman Jason Chaffetz of Utah

noted that Mylan said it would soon sell a generic version of EpiPen for about \$300. "Suddenly feeling the heat Mylan has offered a generic version and cut the price in half, so that does beg the question what was happening with that other \$300?"

Holding up an EpiPen, he said: "The actual juice that's in here that you need costs about a dollar."

The hearing comes after Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton previously called Mylan's price increases outrageous, while both Democratic and Republican lawmakers have called on federal agencies to investigate Mylan's business practices. Several U.S. states are probing the impact of the price increases on government healthcare programs such as Medicaid.

Mylan has responded to the criticism by offering discounts more widely to families, and said it plans to launch a half-price version of EpiPen soon, a move Bresch said on Wednesday would cannibalize its brand-name product.

"Our concern was absolutely that anyone who needs an EpiPen has one," she said.

EpiPen has more than a 90 percent market share for emergency epinephrine auto-injectors. In 2015 it accounted for \$1 billion of Mylan's overall sales of \$9.45 billion. The device accounts for about 20 percent of company profits.

Critics say EpiPen would remain profitable at a lower price. REUTERS

BRIEF

Supercar maker McLaren says not in discussion with Apple

McLaren damped down a report on Wednesday that Apple Inc. had made an approach for the British Formula One team owner and supercar maker.

"We can confirm that McLaren is not in discussion with Apple in respect of any potential investment," a McLaren spokesman said.

"As you would expect, the nature of our brand means

we regularly have confidential conversations with a wide range of parties, but we keep them confidential."

The Financial Times newspaper, citing three sources it said had been briefed on negotiations, had reported that Apple had made an approach for a strategic investment or a potential buyout.

It reported that the automotive group could be valued at between \$1.3 billion and \$1.9



McLaren GETTY IMAGES

experts over the past year and is exploring making charging stations for electric cars. Apple also invested \$1 billion in Chinese ride-hailing service Didi Chuxing earlier this year.

The McLaren Formula One team is partnered by Honda, who provide the power units. The team is the second most successful after Ferrari in terms of race wins and titles but has not won a grand prix since 2012. REUTERS

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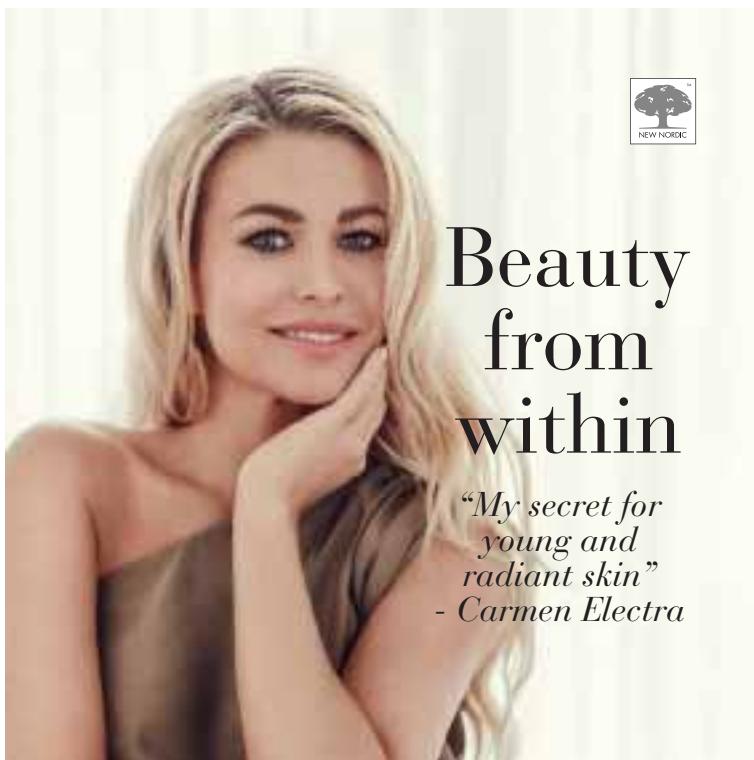
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*Eiji Yamashita et al, "The effects of a dietary supplement containing astaxanthin on skin condition"; Carotenoid Science, Vol 10 (2006).

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Senate clears way for \$1.15 billion arms sale to Saudi Arabia



Abrams-M1A tank GETTY IMAGES

The Senate voted 71 to 27 to kill legislation that would have stopped the sale.

The U.S. Senate cleared the way for a \$1.15 billion sale of tanks and other military equipment to Saudi Arabia on Wednesday, defending a frequent partner in the Middle East recently subject to harsh criticism in Congress.

The overwhelming vote stopped an effort led by Republican Sen. Rand Paul and Democratic Sen. Chris Murphy to block the deal over concerns including Saudi Arabia's role in the 18-month-long war in Yemen and worries that it might fuel an ongoing regional arms race.

The Pentagon announced on Aug. 9 that the State Department had approved the potential sale of more than 130 Abrams battle tanks, 20 armored recovery vehicles and other equipment to Saudi

Arabia.

The Defense Security Cooperation Agency said General Dynamics Corp. would be the principal contractor for the sale.

Paul, Murphy and other opponents of the arms deal were sharply critical of the Riyadh government during debate before the vote, citing Yemen, the kingdom's human rights record and its international support for a conservative form of Islam.

"If you're serious about stopping the flow of extremist recruiting across this globe, then you have to be serious that the ... brand of Islam that is spread by Saudi Arabia all over the world, is part of the problem," Murphy said.

The criticism came days before lawmakers are expected to back another measure seen as anti-Saudi, a bill that would allow lawsuits against the country's government by relatives of victims of the Sept. 11 attacks.

President Barack Obama has promised to

veto that bill, but congressional leaders say there is a strong chance that lawmakers will override the veto and let the measure become law. Overriding a presidential veto requires a two-thirds vote in both the House and Senate.

In Yemen, where a Saudi-led coalition is battling Iranian-allied Houthis, the Houthis have accused the United States of arming and supporting the Saudis, who intervened on the side of Yemen's exiled government.

The war has killed over 10,000 people and displaced more than three million.

But backers of the deal said Saudi Arabia is an important U.S. ally in a war-torn region, deserving of U.S. support.

"This motion comes at a singularly unfortunate time and would serve to convince Saudi Arabia and all other observers that the United States does not live up to its commitments," Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said.

REUTERS

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Trump opposes plan for US to cede internet oversight

Congress should block the handover, scheduled to occur on Oct. 1, "or internet freedom will be lost for good, since there will be no way to make it great again once it is lost," Stephen Miller, national policy director for the Trump campaign, said in a statement.

Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump opposes a long-planned transition of oversight of the internet's technical management from the U.S. government to a global community of stakeholders, his cam-

paign said in a statement on Wednesday.

Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas, a former presidential primary foe of Trump's who has refused to endorse the real estate developer, has led a movement in Congress to block the transition, arguing it could cede control of the internet itself to authoritarian regimes like Russia and China and threaten online freedom.

Technical experts have said those claims are baseless, and that a delay will backfire by undermining U.S. credibility in future international negotiations over internet standards and security.

Publicly proposed in March 2014, the transfer of oversight of the nonprofit Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers,



Donald Trump GETTY IMAGES

or ICANN, is expected to go forward unless Congress votes to block the move.

A vote to delay the transition may come as an amendment to a temporary spending bill that Congress must pass by Sept. 30 to prevent much of the federal government from shutting down. Congressional negotiators on Wednesday were working to finalize an agreement on the spending package.

Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton supports the Obama administration's planned transition to a global community of technologists, civil society groups and internet users, according to policy positions available on her campaign website. REUTERS



U.S. soldiers wear masks as they take part in a military exercise simulating a chemical weapons attack.

US tests for mustard agent after rocket attack near Iraq base

The U.S. military is carrying out tests to see if a chemical agent may have been used in a rocket attack in Iraq by Islamic State that came within hundreds of yards of U.S. forces but injured no one, a U.S. official said on Wednesday.

The military official,

who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the first of two initial tests showed the presence of a mustard agent but the second did not. None of the U.S. forces who inspected the shell fragments have displayed symptoms of exposure to a mustard agent, the official added. REUTERS



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US cities push for local laws to oversee police surveillance

A number of U.S. cities are introducing proposals to mandate community oversight of police use of digital surveillance technology as evidence mounts that black or poor neighborhoods are being more heavily scrutinized than others, civil rights activists said on Wednesday.

The legislative measures are being introduced by lawmakers in 11 cities from Seattle to Washington, D.C., and are backed by a coalition of 17 groups led by the American Civil Liberties Union and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

"[We need] to build the legislative power of local communities to prevent high-tech racial profiling

and policing from turning our neighborhoods into open-air prisons," Malkia Cyril, executive director of the Center for Media Justice, told reporters on a conference call during which the proposals were announced on Wednesday.

The coalition said the proposals stemmed from the growing use by departments across the country of high-tech equipment or software, some of which was developed for battlefields, to surreptitiously monitor poor or predominantly black neighborhoods, Muslims, or the street-level movements of activists within the Black Lives Matter movement.

The proposed bills would mandate city coun-



cil approval of the use and purchase of surveillance equipment, and input and oversight from communities on how it is used.

"We want to give municipalities the ability to say 'no,'" Cyril said.

Proposals were introduced on Wednesday in Miami Beach and Pensacola, Florida, and others were expected in the coming weeks in New York City, Milwaukee, Muskegon, Michigan, and other localities, the American Civil Liberties Union said.

Palo Alto, California, will vote on its proposal later in September, and Hattiesburg, Mississippi, is introducing legislation in October, the ACLU said.

REUTERS



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BRIEF

Trump scores with small money, lags with big donors

Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump has been a hit with small donors, raking in two-thirds of his individual campaign contributions in sums of \$200 or less, according to financial disclosures filed on Tuesday.

But with the big-money donor class, the players Trump blasted during the primary season as greedy influence ped-

ders, the celebrity businessman has fallen short of expectations, the disclosures filed with the federal government showed.

Trump took in 65 percent of his total \$75 million in individual campaign contributions from people who pitched in \$200 or less, but Super PAC contributions fell short of expectations.

Great America PAC, the pro-Trump Super PAC led by Republican operative Ed Rollins,

said in July it expected to pull in more than \$20 million by now. Instead, it has raised just \$11 million, according to the latest campaign finance disclosures.

In a similar fashion, a pro-Trump Super PAC kicked off by Los Angeles real estate investor Tom Barrack, Rebuilding America Now, said in June it had \$32 million in fundraising commitments.

But it received just over \$2 million that month. A spokes-

person for the Super PAC says it has now raised \$18 million. It will not file its next report until October 15.

The Republican kingmaker who was expected to be Trump's single biggest backer, casino magnate Sheldon Adelson, has scaled back his initial pledge of \$100 million, made in a private meeting with Trump in May, to just \$5 million, according to two associates close to Adelson familiar with the matter. **REUTERS**

Ryan has concerns over 9/11 Saudi bill but predicts veto override



Speaker of the House Paul Ryan **GETTY IMAGES**

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INA16_85(e)

The U.S. House of Representatives would override any presidential veto of a bill allowing survivors and families of victims of the Sept. 11 attacks to sue Saudi Arabia. Speaker Paul Ryan predicted on Wednesday while also citing concerns with the legislation.

"I worry about legal

matters. I worry about

trial lawyers trying to

get rich off of this. And

I do worry about the

precedence. At the same

time, these victims do

need to have their day

in court," Ryan, a Re-

publican, told reporters.

Congress has over-

whelmingly passed the

Justice Against Spon-

sors of Terrorism Act in reac-

tion to long-running sus-

picions, denied by Saudi

Arabia, that hijackers

of the four U.S. jetliners

that attacked the United

States in 2001 were

backed by the Saudi

government.

Obama in coming days is expected to veto the bill on grounds that other countries could use the law as an excuse to sue U.S. diplomats, service members or companies. But Congress could have the last word if the Senate and House of Representatives each override that veto by a two-thirds vote.

"I do think the votes are there for the over-ride," Ryan said.

When asked by a reporter if U.S. sup- port for Saudi Arabia was "unconditional," Ryan responded that the country "is a very important and valuable ally" and is helping Washington in the "war on terror."

He noted, however, "Our support for any country is not unconditional."

REUTERS

"I worry about legal matters. I worry about trial lawyers trying to get rich off of this. And I do worry about the precedence. At the same time, these victims do need to have their day in court."

Paul Ryan

Men Say "WOW!" After Using New Doctor Approved Sex Pill

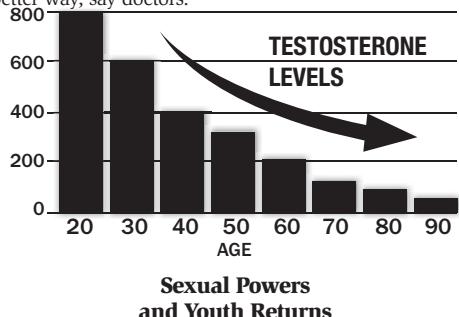
Soaring demand expected for new scientific advance made just for older men. Works on both men's physical ability and their desire in bed.

PHILADELPHIA — Many of the symptoms associated with 'growing old' are actually signs the body is running on empty.

For a man, the precipitous drop in the hormone testosterone can be life-changing; degrading the quality of erections, reducing sexual desire, and stamina. There's more.

A Slow Leak

Low 'T-levels' can also trigger insomnia, premature aging of the skin, increased body fat, muscle loss, depression, and worrisome mind and memory problems. The good news is that restoring testosterone to optimal, youthful levels is a fairly easy process. The bad news is that it's painful and expensive. One has to endure repeated doctor visits, blood tests, painful injections deep into large muscles, or the daily application of ineffective, expensive adhesive patches or messy topical creams. Now, there's a better way, say doctors.



In the quest to keep aging men young and vibrant, scientists looked beyond human testosterone to discover an ensemble of natural fire-starters and sexual enhancers that re-kindled a man's sexual powers by naturally elevating testosterone.

This can make any man a better, stronger lover, and also improve his overall well-being, and confidence.

The breakthrough is called Beyond Human Testosterone.

It's a drug-free, two-capsule-a-day formula that is growing more popular with healthcare professionals and men looking for a painless, prescription-free fix.

Slow Down Aging

Users report better sex, increased mental focus, alertness, and productivity, increased muscle mass, energy expenditure, and smoother, more 'touchable' skin.

"Beyond Human Testosterone is an impressive formula," says physician Dr. Steve Klayman.

"Its ability to stimulate the body into producing more testosterone makes it perfect for every man who wants to boost his sexual response, improve his physical appearance, brighten his moods, and slow the rate at which his body is aging."

Hard as Steel

Kevin J. San Angelo, Texas is in full agreement. He has his life back. "I've had problems sustaining my erections," confesses Kevin. "I tried Beyond Human Testosterone and my erection was unusually hard and I lasted longer than I have in years." Reactions like this are not surprising to Dr. Klayman.

Raises Testosterone

The formula pairs dual, testosterone-boosting plant extracts from *erycoma longifolia* and fenugreek seed.

These unique plant chemicals work synergistically to stimulate and increase natural testosterone production.

The result when taken over a period of 90 days or more is markedly higher levels of free testosterone in the body.

When testosterone is replenished, regardless of age or physical state of health, any man can enjoy a more powerful sex drive, enhanced sexual function, increased energy levels, and a far more pleasurable sexual experience.

BHT Helps Prevent Man Boobs

Increasing levels of testosterone is, by itself, may not be enough to fully restore waning sexual powers, warns Dr. Klayman

With age and the natural upheaval in hormonal balance, some men, by no fault of their own, will begin to convert testosterone to... estrogen.

Ever seen a man with pronounced 'man boobs?' This is often caused by this unwanted shift in estrogen-testosterone balance. The Beyond Human Testosterone formula prevents this with the addition of a remarkable phytonutrient called diindolylmethane, or DIM. DIM helps safeguard and protect a man's testosterone reserves and supports overall hormone balance. Then we went a step further and put the "magic bullet" into the Beyond Human Testosterone formula.

Best Friend Re-Appears



Susan M. who lives in a large city on the west coast writes about her husband's night-and-day turnaround,

"Jim has been on Beyond Human Testosterone for four weeks and the changes are miraculous. He's like his old self again."

"My husband's moods have perked up," says Susan.

"He's a lot more adventurous. Romance-wise, it's like it was when we first met," she smiles.

"He's caring, adventurous, and extremely passionate. I've got my best friend back!"

"Thanks to Beyond Human Testosterone, I've gone from having sex once a week, or sometimes less, to three or four times a week," laughs Jim.

"On our last vacation in Mexico, Susan and I were at it almost every day and night. It was like being on our honeymoon again."

A human clinical study in the journal *Phytotherapy Research* reported that the herbal extract fenugreek boosted libido in 82% of men who consumed the dietary supplement in the twelve-week study. In addition, 63% of the men taking the fenugreek noted an improvement in the quality of sexual performance and 67% of men indicated the herbal extract enhanced their sexual recovery time.

Fenugreek has been studied in the past for its effects in blood sugar maintenance in diabetics and its cholesterol-



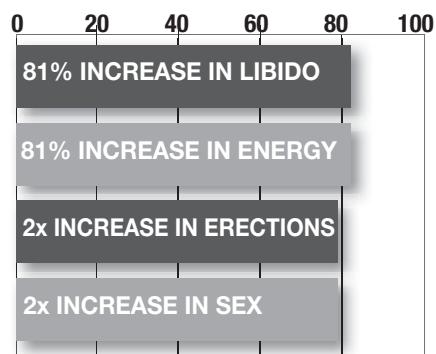
lowering effects among those with hyperlipidemia (high cholesterol and high triglycerides). Fenugreek seeds are rich in a chemical compound known as saponins. According to the study authors, one of the common saponins found in fenugreek is diosgenin, a steroid-like precursor for the synthesis of a number of sex hormones. Beyond Human is one of only a few testosterone boosters that contains this amazing ingredient.

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A special phone hotline has been set up to take advantage of deep discounts during this special promotion period. Special discounts will be available starting today and will automatically be applied to all New York residents. The Special TOLL-FREE Hotline number is 1-800-650-3413 and will be open 24-hours a day. The first 100 callers can also receive free of charge, the medical report that every man should read - *Surviving Menopause*. Learn the preventive measures that help ward off encroaching 'old man-itis.'

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Fed keeps rates steady, signals one increase by end of the year



Federal Reserve Board Chairman Janet Yellen during a news conference following the Federal Open Market Committee meeting in Washington. GETTY IMAGES

The Federal Reserve left interest rates unchanged Wednesday but strongly signaled it could still tighten

monetary policy by the end of this year as the labor market improved further.

Fed Chairman Janet Yellen, speaking after the central bank's latest policy statement, said U.S. growth was looking stronger and rate increases would be needed to keep the economy from overheating and fueling high inflation.

"We judged that the case for an increase has strengthened but decided for the time being to wait," Yellen told a news conference. "The economy has a little more room to run."

Yellen said she expected one rate increase this year if the job market continued to improve and major new risks did not arise.

The Fed kept its target rate for overnight lending between banks in a range of 0.25 percent to 0.50 percent, where it has been since it hiked rates in December for the first time in nearly a decade.

The Fed has appeared increasingly divided over the urgency of raising rates. On Wednesday, Kansas City Fed President Esther George, Cleveland Fed President Loretta Mester and Boston Fed President Eric Rosengren dissented on the policy statement, saying they favored raising rates this week.

At the same time, policymakers cut the number of rate increases they expect this year to one from two, according to the median projection of forecasts released with the statement. Three of the 17 policymakers said rates should remain steady for the rest of the year.

The Fed also projected a less aggressive rise in interest rates next year and in 2018, and cut its longer-run interest-rate forecast to 2.9 percent from 3 percent.

Investors did not appear to significantly shift their bets on the timing of the next rate hike. Prices for Fed funds futures contracts suggested investors continued to see just better-than-even odds of a hike at the December policy meeting, and almost no chance of an increase in November.

U.S. stock prices rose after the Fed released its statement.

The dissents from those wanting a hike this week suggested to some economists that pressure was building.

"While the Federal Reserve held rates unchanged, the highly unusual 7-3 vote points to the depth of its policy dilemma and makes a December hike more likely," said Mohamed El-Erian, chief economic adviser at Allianz. REUTERS

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Telephone boxes outside the General Post Office in Blackpool, England GETTY IMAGES

UK's famed red phone boxes get revamp as mini-offices

In the age of smart-phones, Britain's famous red telephone boxes may no longer be used as often as they once were. But one company is giving them a makeover — as small offices.

Pod Works is hoping to lure those who sit in coffee bars to work on their laptops to its revamped booths, which boast WiFi, plug sockets, a phone, printer, scanner and free coffee and tea.

Once dotting British cities, towns and villages, the red telephone boxes have dwindled in number over the years, removed or replaced by modern booths. Some have been turned into libraries or coffee shops.

"We thought it was a good idea to repurpose these and take them into the 21st century," Pod Works UK Managing Director Lorna Moore said. "The sheer volume of tourists who come and stand by the box and

"We're hoping to have 50 out by Christmas, and then this time next year we will have 300 out."

Moore

take selfies and photographs indicates just how iconic and important they are."

Pod Works launched its first such work station in central London's Russell Square this month and is opening others across the capital, for which membership costs \$32 a month. It plans to expand to other cities in October.

"We're hoping to have 50 out by Christmas, and then this time next year we will have 300 out," Moore said.

REUTERS



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Texas intends to withdraw from Syrian refugee resettlement

Texas gave notice on Wednesday that it was withdrawing from participating in the U.S. Office of Refugee Resettlement's program, citing security concerns after failing in federal court to halt the inflow of Syrian refugees into the state.

The Texas state refugee coordinator sent a letter to the agency, giving 120 days notice of its intention to withdraw, charging that the program was riddled with problems that present security risks, Republican Gov. Greg Abbott said.

"Despite multiple requests by the state of Texas, the federal government lacks the capability or the will to distinguish the dangerous from the harmless, and Texas will not be an accomplice to such dereliction of duty



Syrian refugee children GETTY IMAGES

to the American people," Abbott said in a statement.

Texas, a bellwether state for conservative policies, has seen other Republican-led states follow its lead in challenging the Obama administration's refugee resettlement plans in and out of the courts.

Officials from the Office of Refugee Resettlement were not available for comment. Federal officials have said refugees are carefully vetted before entering the country.

The Justice Depart-

ment has argued in court filings that the federal government sets policies for international immigration and states do not have authority to halt federal plans.

Since Jan. 1, 2011, there have been 1,104 Syrian refugees resettled in Texas, according to the State Department-affiliated Refugee Processing Center. That is less than the 1,610 people resettled in California and the 1,515 who were sent to Michigan.

The Obama administration said on Aug. 29 that it would meet its goal of admitting 10,000 Syrian refugees during the current fiscal year a month ahead of schedule and was working with Congress to increase the target by a few thousand during 2017. REUTERS

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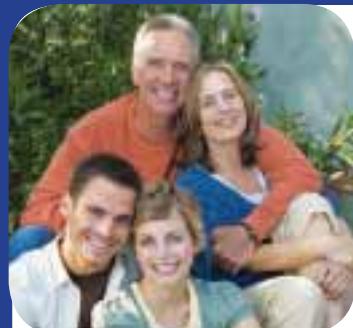


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Brangelina breakup breakdown, Day 2

Yesterday, news of Jolie's and Pitt's pending divorce turned our (celeb-obsessed) world upside down. Today, folks in real life (and, of course, on the internet) are still reeling from the demise of one of the most beloved Hollywood couples.

Here are five things to know about the breakup that has broken us all:

1. Adele basically dedicated her concert in NYC to the ex-couple, addressing the crowd: "Can we talk about the elephant in the room? That Brangelina broke up?" and referring to it as "the end of an era."

2. Gossip outlets are trying to milk this for all it's worth. An Instagram Selena Gomez posted in January of Pitt and herself at a Golden Globes party has resurfaced. Apparently at the time, Jolie "blew a gasket" over it. The National Enquirer wonders if Jolie's jealousy of the baby-faced pop star may have played a part in the split? (Uhh, we doubt it.)

3. Relationships are never set in stone, but if you're famous enough, yours



GETTY IMAGES

may be set in wax! At Madame Tussauds London, the figures of Brad and Angie have officially been separated. Wow, we were not ready for that.

4. Some people, who must have a lump of coal in place of a heart, have apparently moved on. Over at The Ringer, writers are already brainstorming who should replace Brangelina as the top pop-culture power couple. How dare they! Potential contenders

range from the obvious — Kimye and Beyoncé and Jay-Z — to so-so couple Ryan Gosling and Eva Mendes to rando oldie romancers Goldie Hawn and Kurt Russell. Our favorite of the suggestions has to be Ben Affleck and Nicotine.

5. Wino site VinePair is all, "But who will get ownership of the Miraval Winery?" It's a relevant question for those who care about wine, considering one of the top sellers on the market, Chateau Miraval Rose, is produced at the couple's French estate. VinePair

thinks it could go to Jolie, because she has French-Canadian nationality. Then again, Pitt is big into working on the vineyard (and the internets are breathlessly reporting that his drinking habits played a role in the split, though neither camp has made any comment about that).

the
word

Whitney Cummings freely sparks up

The comedian discusses pot, politics and the boudoir.

BRENDAN MCGUIRK
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Whitney Cummings doesn't know how exactly she became a headlining advocate of the marijuana movement but, true to form, the bold stand-up doesn't shy from the tough questions. As part of a cannabis comedy tour, the "2 Broke Girls" creator comes to Boston this week, for a stand-up show sponsored by Leafly — an emerging company that is seeking to become the primary information resource on all things pot.

We spoke with Cummings to pick her brain on weed matters.

Joints, blunts, vapes, glass or hollowed-out pieces of fruit -- what's your preferred smoking apparatus?

You know what's very weird is that I don't smoke that much weed. I smoke weed out of a bowl. Like an adult. I'm not going to bring an innocent piece of fruit into it. A lot of the annoying people in my life thankfully smoke weed, and it makes them less annoying, so I'm very grateful for the effect weed has on all the people around me.

A lot of your mate-



The UPenn alumna doesn't shy away from our questions. PROVIDED

rial comes out of the boudoir — do you have thoughts on weed, sex and the combination thereof?

Yeah, weed and sex, to me, just equals, like ... what's it when you have sex with dead people? Not narcolepsy ...

Necrophilia.

Yeah! If you have sex with me when [I'm smoking] you're a necrophiliac, because I just pass out. Like, I'm not a fun, sexy weed smoker. I just stop yelling. I'm just even more useless in bed when I'm stoned.

It's political season, and systemic sexism is a part of many discussions. Do you see gender politics playing a big role in many of your Hollywood and standup dealings?

I talk about it a lot. I have to be honest, I exploit it a lot, so if there was no sexism I would really have nothing to talk about. I'm using it to my advantage — making fun of idiots pays my bills, so I'm grateful for racist, sexist idiots, on some level.

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Kelsey Grammer will fight The Rock

The one-time Frasier Crane talks "Storks" and his voicework on "WrestleMania."

GREG CWK
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Kelsey Grammer is a living elocution lesson. The man is known for his beautiful baritone voice, which he lends to the new animated movie "Storks." Grammer plays a duplicitous, barrel-chested boss of a delivery company operated by storks, who have given up on the baby-sending business. Grammer also appears in the new television adaptation of F. Scott Fitzgerald's final novel "The Last Tycoon." The "Frasier" star talked to us about being seen as more formal than he is, wrestling and (sort of) Zac Efron's abs.

You played the boss on the show "Boss," and



Kelsey Grammer voices a villainous stork boss in "Storks." WARNER BROS. PICTURES

now you play the boss in "Storks." Do you just like being the boss? It does suit you.

I think people's imagination leads them to believe it suits me. I guess I have the necessary equipment:

A voice, experience, presence — these are the things that combine to make them think I can be a boss. I mean, I have been a boss of many things in my life, but I don't come across quite

the same in real life.

Also surprising: You did voicework for "WrestleMania."

Oh, you heard that? It's sort of tongue-in-cheek but also epic and grand.

character called the Great Malenko who was doing a circuit down in Florida. They appealed to me: larger-than-life characters standing up for right and wrong. I love that kind of stuff. It's great imagery, great entertainment. I love The Rock and Roddy Piper, and Andre the Giant. He casts a pretty big shadow throughout contemporary culture.

You and The Rock should make a wrestling movie together. "Frasier vs. The Rock."

He's terrific, isn't he? I'd love to work with him. If they put me through a year of training and the culmination of all my work was to finally be in the ring for about two minutes, I'd be glad to. But I don't think that's going to happen.

You worked with Nicholas Stoller, co-director of "Storks," on "Neighbors 2," which stars Zac Efron's abs. Did you get to touch his muscles?

Uh ... well, I, uh, I don't know ... that doesn't fall into my, uh, what's the word ... Look, Zac is a fella I've known for several years and he seems like a nice guy. That's all I know.

"The Simpsons" was recently called the Best Show Ever in a book. What's your favorite Sideshow Bob episode?

It's probably the one with the rake.

"Cape Fear."
Yeah. That one. "Cape Fear."

And singing that song, just hysterical. I did win an Emmy for my performance in "The Italian Bob," you know. With the baby named Vendetta. It's so silly. They're wonderfully ridiculous shows. Sideshow Bob casts a pretty big shadow.

Please tell me there won't be any reboot of "Frasier." It would crush my mom. She loves "Frasier."

Oh, no, no, there would be no point. We already did it so well. How would they do it better? And tell your mom I said, "Hello."

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Brad (Ben Schnetzer, left) gets hazed mercilessly at the frat of his brother Brett (Nick Jonas) in "Goat." **PARAMOUNT**

'Goat' shows frat culture at its most toxic

The bro-drama is brutal to watch.



KATE MOONEY
@yatinbrooklyn
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"Goat," an indie film from writer and director Andrew Neel, doesn't hold back in its grueling depiction of fraternity hazing.

Based on Brad Land's 2004 memoir of the same name, "Goat" tells the story of 19-year-old Brad (Ben Schnetzer, "Pride" and "Snowden") who endures violent assault and then subjects himself to another kind of trauma — Hell Week at his big brother's fraternity.

While the hazing is already to the extreme — for both viewers and the pledges — it's even more brutal for Brad, whose case of PTSD almost puts him over the edge.

Nick Jonas (yes, that Jonas, who also plays a frat brother on "Scream Queens") co-stars as Schnetzer's older brother Brett, who simultaneously ushers him into frat culture while trying to protect him from it.

The script — heavy on the brospeak — was co-written by David Gordon Green, who has made his fair share of dramas but may be better known for stoner buddy comedies like "Pineapple Express" and HBO's "Eastbound and Down." James Franco cameos as a slightly

deranged alum of the frat who comes back to visit.

We spoke with the two young stars, Jonas and Schnetzer, about brotherhood (real-life and fraternal), and how the film might serve as a warning to this year's incoming college freshmen.

"Goat" is out Friday in limited release.

Do either of you have any personal experience with hazing?

Schnetzer: It was grueling; it was also rewarding. At the end of the day, you'd feel like you earned your shower.

There was a rough sketch of what needed to be accomplished, but Andrew [Neel] kept the pledges and the brothers separate. We didn't really know what was going on.

How did you guys prepare for these roles? Did you watch any classic frat movies?

Jonas: "Frat House" the documentary, directed by Todd Phillips, Andrew had us watch, that really helped. It's one of the only real, behind-closed-doors looks at that really rough experience.

Also, speaking to people who have been in fraternities and hearing their stories.

Did you draw on your relationships with your own brothers for this role?

Jonas: I'm very close with my brothers. Specifically with my brother Joe, there are a lot of parallels to the relationship [in the film]. I'm very protective of him and he is of me and we spoke a lot about the protection of each other being a theme for us in this film.

Do either of you have any personal experience with hazing?

Schnetzer: No, not really. I was joking with Andrew before we started filming that we're making this film about frat brothers and college boys with a bunch of actors in their early 20s who either didn't go to college or went to acting school.

A lot of the hazing scenes themselves, you kind of just take the ride. The work is done for you. For the rest of it, you just work on filling in the blanks.

Do you think "Goat" will help bring awareness to viewers about toxic frat culture?

Schnetzer: It's definitely going to be a conversation starter. It's cool that it's coming out at the beginning of the school year. **Jonas:** My little brother is starting college this year. I told him I wanted him to see this movie before he thinks about pledging. So, if it can be a tool for people to see what the worst case scenario could be, that'd be great.

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Mark-Paul Gosselaar talks 'Pitch' and being a baseball fan in Los Angeles

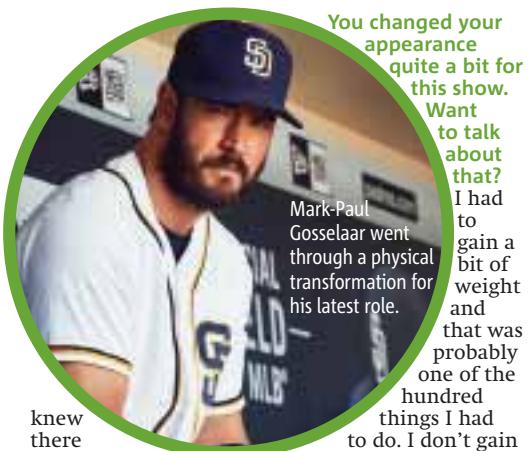
The new show debuts
Sept. 22 on Fox.



JENNIFER LOGUE
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Many of us grew up with Mark-Paul Gosselaar when he burst onto the scene in the '90s as Zack Morris on "Saved by the Bell." While not all child stars enjoy the same level of success as adults, Gosselaar's career continues to blossom. In his latest role, he steps up to the plate as Mike Lawson — the cocky yet lovable MLB catcher in Fox's new show, "Pitch," which makes its debut tonight. We chat with Gosselaar about putting on weight for the role, how to be a baseball fan in L.A. and whether having a female pitcher in the major leagues is really possible.

What's the story behind getting the role?
I read the scripts. It was one of the couple I was reading for pilots and when I put it down, I



Mark-Paul Gosselaar went through a physical transformation for his latest role.

You changed your appearance quite a bit for this show. Want to talk about that?

I had to gain a bit of weight and that was probably one of the hundred things I had to do. I don't gain weight easily just because my wife and I are healthy eaters and our kids are healthy eaters. Having very limited time, I kind of just ate everything.

Michael Phelps-style.
It came out to about 4,000 calories a day. I gained weight for the pilot, but then I have been on a strict diet ever since. I need to gain a little more but I'm trying to keep it where I can take off my shirt. Baseball players are athletic-looking

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Baseball manager Al Luongo (Dan Lauria) offers advice to catcher Mike Lawson (Mark-Paul Gosselaar) and the first female pitcher in major league baseball, Ginny Baker (Kylie Bunbury). ALL PHOTOS FOX

and fit, but they're not ripped.

Did you go through any baseball training?
We have been working with retired Major League Baseball players. One of the guys I have been working with, sort of exclusively, is Lee Ellis. He is a minor league guy. He coached for a high school team in our area. I've been working with a lot of people — probably three times a week for three hours.

Are you a baseball fan?
I'm a casual baseball fan. I don't really follow teams, mostly players. Growing up in L.A., it was kind of always hard to pick a team to kind of root for. But players I like watching.

Do you think we'll ever have a female pitcher in the major leagues?
I don't know. There are so many variables involved. I don't think it's such a simple thing to say, which sport is bad and this is the way

it's always been or, you know, women can't play. It's the simple things — where will she change? Is she in the same locker room as us? We are doing an episode right now where it's a beanball episode. You know, do you hit a female batter? Are you willing to be the first guy who hits Ginny Baker in the majors? But are we willing to look over gender? [On the show] Ginny Baker is a great pitcher and deserves

to be in the majors. A lot of people in the pilot episode said they thought Mike Lawson was hard on her, and I said, "No, I didn't see it as that way." I saw it as Mike Lawson is the captain of this team and he would do that to any person being called up. It has nothing to do with gender but more so about her ability and her talent. He wants to win.

"Pitch" makes its debut Thursday, Sept. 22 at 9/8 on Fox.

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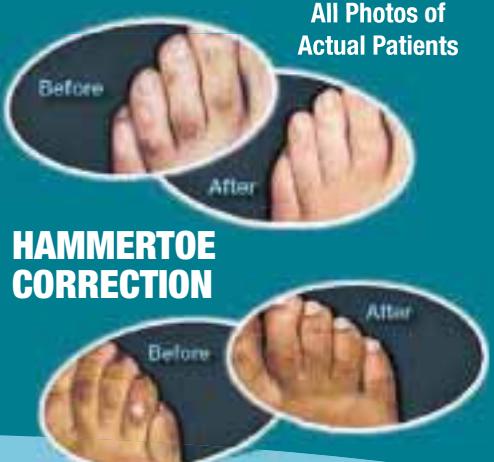
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The Upper West Side gets a not-so-spooky block party on Freedom Place (60th-61st streets), courtesy of the new 21 West End building. The festival is free and open to all, not just residents, with pumpkin carving, cider doughnuts, food trucks and a beer garden, live music from the Frankie Moreno band, vendors and a bounce house. Oct. 8, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., free, 21 West End Ave., facebook.com/21WestEnd

Queens County Fair

Take a drive to Queens County Farm Museum this weekend for its 34th annual Queens County Fair, which includes everything you want in an old-fashioned fall carnival on the farm: carnival rides and games, blue ribbon competitions, pie eating and corn husking contests, and shows for children by magicians, jugglers and acrobats. Though the festival is only for one weekend, you can go on a hayride in a wagon, take a selfie with a llama in the petting zoo, pick a pumpkin, enjoy live music and get lost in the farm's Amazing Maize Maze, the largest in the region. Weekends through Oct. 30. Sept. 24-25, adults \$10, kids 12&under \$5, 73-50 Little Neck Parkway, Floral Park, Long Island

Harvest Moon's Fall Festival

It's apple-picking time — and pumpkin season is not far behind — so get both done at Harvest Moon Farm & Orchard in Westchester County. Every weekend through Oct. 30, this charming eco-conscious farm holds its fall festival with hayrides, live music, apple cannons, a Cider Garden with five varieties of its own farm-made Hardscrabble Cider (and cider doughnuts) and a barbecue. \$5, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., 130 Hardscrabble Road, North Salem, harvestmoonfarmandorchard.com

Great Jack O'Lantern Blaze

This isn't your usual pumpkin patch. For the most spectacular pumpkin display, head to Van Cortlandt Manor in Croton-on-Hudson, where some 7,000 gourds have been carved with great artistry and illuminated throughout the 18th century estate. The walk-through experience along wooded pathways, orchards and gardens takes you past jack-o'-lanterns, pumpkin sculptures, and, new this year, an 8-foot-tall working jack-o'-lantern-in-the-box and life-size dinosaurs. New additions also include a giant color-changing star show at the Pumpkin Planetarium, a Pumpkin Promenade and an 80-foot-long Pumpkin Zee Bridge (get it?) complete with a sea serpent swimming in the Croton River. This event sells out quickly, so hustle. Sept. 30-Oct. 2, Oct. 7-10, Oct. 13-16, Oct. 19-31, Nov. 3-6, Nov. 10-13; \$20-\$25, hudsonvalley.org

ARTS, CULTURE, ACTION

Should you see a preview show?

Many Broadway productions undergo weeks of previews before opening night. We break down the pros and cons of seeing an unfinished product.

 T. MICHELLE MURPHY
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It's the beginning of fall previews, when you can start seeing Broadway shows that have moved out of rehearsal rooms and onto the stage, but are not quite finished yet. The difference between "on sale" and "open" can be confusing even for veteran ticket-buyers, so here are the five things to know before you book.

You're seeing an unfinished product

Broadway plays typically spend between two and five weeks in previews. This period might be shorter if the production had successful workshops, an out-of-town run or a staging off-Broadway. If that's the case, you can feel more confident buying preview seats.

If the show is new, however, previews give it a chance to make money before it's finalized (or "frozen," in industry language), and to try out the material in front of a live audience. But it also means you're not seeing the official version. Scenes may change, entire roles may be eliminated or songs may be moved — or removed entirely, as it happened with a couple numbers from "Hamilton" between its off-Broadway run and the transition to the Richard Rodgers Theatre.

Your seats may be cheaper

Traditionally, preview seats cost less than they would after opening night because sellers know audiences are not necessarily seeing a finished product, and they may



Even the stage setup could be different. ISTOCK

even endure minor hiccups during the performance.

These days, the gap in pricing is much narrower than in the past, and sometimes doesn't exist. Newspaper drama "The Front Page," which started previews a full month before opening Oct. 20, shows no pricing difference in ticket prices between September and November. But the experimental Amazon jungle drama "The Encounter" is selling seats for about \$10-\$20 less ahead of its opening Sept. 29.

Note that there are almost always more discounts offered during previews, so the theater's box office isn't the only place to find savings.

You may have better seats — and a better time

If a show isn't well-known or doesn't have an all-star cast, the best seats in the house aren't going to sell out in the first few weeks. This is when you can choose from a wide array of excellent views that you can actually afford.

Do you know who else sees preview? Friends and family of the cast and crew, industry insiders and certain groups that help promote the show, such as concierges and ticket sellers. The atmosphere in this kind of house is almost always fun — people who are getting comped or cheap seats, and those who

know people in the show, can be an excellent, supportive, less judgmental crowd that keeps the energy in the room high.

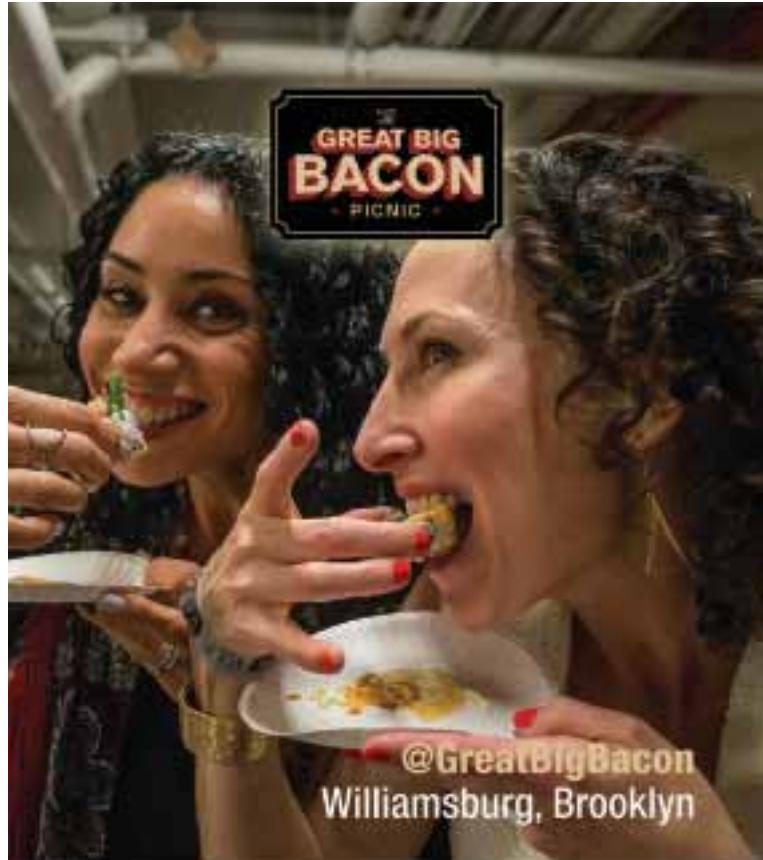
You can form your own opinion

Close to opening night, shows will begin to invite press to select performances. Critics used to see the show on opening night, but now they usually come a night or two ahead (but after the show is "frozen") to write their reviews. So if you see an earlier preview, you won't be swayed by anything you've already read about the performance.

There's also the bonus of saying that you saw it before anyone else. Bonus bragging rights if it gets rave reviews after its premiere, and tickets become impossible to get.

You'll get to see how the show develops over time

One of the main reasons theater lovers deliberately try to see previews is that it's a unique opportunity to see a show in its raw form and catalog first-hand how the show changes over time. Some plays have famously transformed throughout the preview process ("Spider-Man: Turn Off the Dark"), while others go on to be classics, and only the people who were there in early weeks can claim they saw an "early draft" of it.



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ARTS, CULTURE, ACTION

Where is the food world heading?

We ask the author of "Ten Restaurants That Changed America" about the state of our foodie nation.



EVA KIS
@thisiskis
eva.kis@metro.us

Before our current obsession with all things organic and local, Americans tended to value convenience when it came to food.

"A lot of American [culinary] history has been avoiding taking food seriously," says Paul Freedman, a Yale professor and author of the book "Ten Restaurants That Changed America," which grapples with narrowing down the tables that changed the course of our culinary landscape.

"Some of it is also that Americans, until recently, regarded food as something that was inconvenient," says Freedman. "That one day it would be a 'Jetsons'-like world, and we'd all be getting our nourishment from pills or freeze-dried stuff."

Part of the reason for that, he argues, is that much of the country has no food culture. Lacking Old World-style food regions like Italy's many varieties (with exceptions such as New Orleans) means the U.S. has no traditions, and dishes are often reinterpreted when they're adopted elsewhere.

The bitter irony is that even being an influential, popular restaurant is no guarantee against closing. Half of Freedman's picks are New York City restaurants,

but only two remain open: Sylvia's in Harlem and Delmonico's in the Financial District, which actually



Delmonico's became NYC's first proper restaurant in 1837. ALL PHOTOS PROVIDED

began as a bakery and went on to become NYC's first proper restaurant in 1837, offering high-end French cuisine.

So what does it take to be successful now? We asked Freedman to take the pulse of the country's dining scene.

Who's setting the food agenda?

Trends have always existed in cooking but they're happening faster now, Freedman acknowledges, and that drive isn't coming from the usual places.

"There's no society of elite or French chefs," he says. "Terrapin, turtle and wild canvasback ducks were the most popular things in the 19th century in America; that's what people ate at banquets, and who's ever heard of them now?" Get ready for a seismic shift — it's because of consumers asking questions that the 21st century may finally be the time when quality becomes the buzzword in American food.

which eliminates tipping and raises menu prices to pay every worker in his higher-end restaurants a living wage, Freedman sees him as a special case. "He is certainly very good at motivating his people and giving them the sense that they're part of a special thing, so his restaurants will do fine," he says. "Ordinary restaurants really depend on a business model where the servers make a lot of their money on tips, and I just don't see them being able to adopt this."

The loyalty that Meyer commands isn't just from the staff of his restaurants — and that's something Freedman says other restaurateurs could certainly learn from. "Most restaurants don't pay as much attention as Danny does to the customer experience," Freedman says. "He is a pioneer of restaurant style, cuisine, atmosphere and public service."

True food innovation isn't coming from NYC anymore

Brooklyn's time as the creative hub where you could take chances is done, as Freedman sees it. High costs encourage imitation and playing it safe, not turning out the next new thing. So where's a foodie to turn? "A place like Philadelphia that's cheaper and has more room for trial and error is probably more creative in certain respects."

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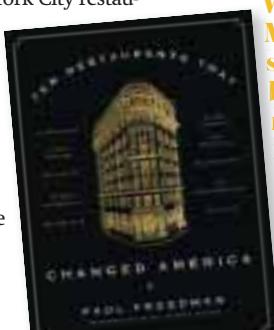


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Why Danny Meyer is successful but others may not be
For all the praise that restaurateur Danny Meyer has gotten for his Hospitality Included program,

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Join the Power Wheel Racing Series at World Maker Faire, October 1 & 2, and watch one of the Faire's favorite attractions as they show their mad skills, silly antics, and engineering prowess – all in a \$500 Power Wheel (or any electric kids' ride-on vehicle). Did we mention costumes? LEDs and glitter are likely!

Held at the New York Hall of Science (NSYCI) in Queens. Saturday & Sunday, 10AM - 6PM. Get your tickets today at www.makerfaire.com.

"I've been a fan of the Power Racing Series for a long time," says Caleb Kraft, senior editor, *Make*: magazine. "You

can't help but love watching these hacked up cars zipping around the race track, with the comically too small cars, making their drivers look like giant toddlers. The silliness and the fun masks some very important aspects, though. The Power Racing Series is cultivating the next generation of engineers and tinkerers that will shape the future of smart cars everywhere. By keeping it fun and silly, people are more driven to participate and their creativity is pushed even further."

When it all started out, it was just pure fun. You'd take a kids' ride-on vehicle, often found for free on curbs, and you'd bring it back to life and race it. As people began to get more competitive, modifications began to happen. In the beginning you could almost keep pace with the cars while walking. Now, some cars are so quick that riding on them is an adrenaline-blasting thrill.

It isn't all about speed, though. As Jim Burke, the founder of the series (and also *Make*'s graphic designer) points out, there's the aspect of Moxy. You see, it isn't enough to simply show up and go fast. You have to also win over the hearts of the crowd. This is done through costumes, displays of humor, bribes of candy, and simply making a loveable car.

Jim sees a bright future for the series. They've been dabbling in fully autonomous cars, and in doing that are really at the cutting edge of the industry. Big car companies may be exploring the same paths, but they tend to be messing with tools that cost considerable amounts of money, placing them out of reach of many schools and clubs. The power racing series is attempting to get young engineers and enthusiasts involved in competitive autonomous car racing at a much more accessible price level.



As Jim explains, "We don't want teams that cost \$20,000 per school. We want \$1000 teams and 20 schools."

The hope is to get more creative minds tackling the issues of autonomous cars by lowering the cost barrier. Not only that, but surely the Power Racing Series is the perfect fit to make autonomous car racing more appealing by

simply bringing their ethos of fun along.

Join us for World Maker Faire is the Greatest Show (and Tell) on Earth—a family-friendly showcase of invention, creativity and resourcefulness, and a celebration of the Maker Movement. It's a place where people of all ages and backgrounds gather together to show what they are

making, and share what they are learning. Join over 950+ Makers for hands-on learning, making, and inspiration all weekend, October 1 & 2.

You can find the Power Wheel Racing Series at World Maker Faire in ZONE 2. Schedule SAT 11AM, NOON, 1PM, 3PM; SUN 12:30PM

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FOOD

The Great Big Bacon Picnic

Bacon. Unlimited bacon. Many kinds of bacon, prepared all different ways. Plus beer and booze. This is definitely a "shut up and take my money" situation, so it's actually kind of amazing that you can try one of the 2.5-hour sessions this weekend starting at just \$79 (although VIP tickets get you early access, special upgrades and a swag bag). Between bacony bites by over 100 city chefs, you can visit the dedicated bacon bar or hit up one of the actual bars while listening to live music.

Sept. 24-25, Old Pfizer Factory, 630 Flushing Ave., Queens, \$79-\$249, greatbigbacon.com

PROVIDED

VARIETY

Bushwick's Got Talent

Some undoubtedly amazing performers will kick off this talent show when it debuts tonight — but the best part of this showcase is guaranteed to be all of the absolutely awful entrants who dare to take the stage in front of a panel of judges at House of Yes. And you can be cheering or boozing right along as they sing, dance, juggle or blow bubbles (who knows?) while competing for \$500.

Sept. 22, 7-10 p.m., 2 Wyckoff Ave., Bushwick, \$15-\$25, houseofyes.org

FALL

Harvest in the Square

Chefs from over 40 of your favorite Union Square Park restaurants come together to prepare signature dishes at Harvest in the Square. Now in its 21st year, the event continues to raise vital funds that keep the neighborhood clean and support its community programs. Bites are prepared with fresh produce from the Union Square Greenmarket, and they're paired with locally sourced wine and beer.

Sept. 22, 7 p.m.
Union Square Park, \$125-\$400, harvestinthesquare.nyc

ARTS

"Bob's Burgers" Art Show

Already in California, Spoke Art NYC comes east with "Bob's Burgers: An Art Show Tribute." Featuring everything from paintings to sculptures (including prints for sale), the Fox-endorsed exhibit is an ode to the animated series about a realistically flawed family. There's no cover, plus opening

night reception Saturday from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. is free.

Sept. 24-Oct. 16, Spoke Art NYC, 210 Rivington St., free, spoke-art.com

DRINKS

Total Bed-Stuy Immersion

Brooklyn Brewery completes its series of summer tours through the five boroughs this week with the Total Bed-Stuy Immersion. For \$25 — what you'd spend on brunch anyway — you can try beers at local hotspots Do or Dive, Beast of Bourbon, Chilo's and Fulton Grand, plus your choice of lunch at one of five stops. To see more of the nabe, you'll receive discounts at other local venues for the rest of the day. You can also pay \$15 for just drinks.

Sept. 24, noon-6 p.m., multiple locations, \$15-\$25, brooklynbrewery.com

SEX

SHE: Sexual Health Expo

To learn the latest about reproductive health, body positivity and how to get the most out of your sex life, check out SHE: Sexual Health Expo in Greenpoint's Terminal Warehouse this weekend. It's open to all genders/orientations; plus, the toys and technology have come a long way. Oh, and it's free.

Sept. 24-25, 11 a.m.-6 p.m., 73 West St., Brooklyn, free, sexualhealthexpo.com

TAXIDERMY

Chipmunk Taxidermy Workshop

You're never as odd as you think you are — and in a city this big, there are always people who

share your passion. Get started in taxidermy during the Chipmunk Taxidermy Workshop with Obscura Society NY on Sunday, hosted by Katie Innamorato of Afterlife Anatomy. She'll also discuss how to ethically source your, erm, specimens. All tools and materials are provided, and participants are encouraged to bring clothes and props to dress up their display.

Sept. 25, 1-6 p.m., Court Tree Collective, 371 Court St., Floor 2, \$210, atlasobscura.com

EVENT

Family Garden Picnic

Bring the family for a day in the beautiful fall air (finally) when the New York Botanical Garden hosts its Edible Academy Family Garden Picnic benefit on Sunday. Led by chef Carla Hall of "The Chew," the event is a hands-on cooking workshop and picnic that also includes snacks, crafts and games that enforce a healthful lifestyle. Kids are \$75, while adult tickets start at \$125; proceeds support Edible Academy, an initiative to promote nutrition to families.

Sept. 25, 12:30-4:30 p.m., 2900 Southern Blvd., Bronx, nybg.org

BOOKS

"Unbound: A Book Launch Series"

Colson Whitehead, Ina Garten and David Salle are the three authors spotlighted at this year's edition of "Unbound: A Book Launch Series" at the Brooklyn Academy of Music. Each personality will appear for a curated talk followed by a book signing at one of BAM's iconic venues each month starting Monday. Tina Fey moderates on Oct. 25. Sept. 26, Oct. 25, Nov. 1, Brooklyn Academy of Music, 30 Lafayette Ave., \$25-\$45, bam.org



A Hudson River Park educator teaches kids all about the Atlantic sturgeon. Photo credit: Sam Polcer

At Submerge, New Yorkers dive into marine science

The free annual festival at Hudson River Park is this Saturday.

 **KATE MOONEY**
@MetroNewYork
kate.mooney@metro.us

If you've ever wanted to learn more about what lies beneath the surface of New York City's waterways, you can find out Saturday at Submerge, a free, daylong marine science festival held at Pier 26 at Hudson River Park.

In partnership with the New York Hall of Science, the festival, now in

its second year, combines hands-on learning and interactive demonstrations to bring New Yorkers closer to the water that surrounds them. Organizations including the Bronx River Alliance and Gotham Whale will set up research stations to teach audiences about topics such as marine robotics and oyster filtration. Expect closeups of river wildlife like oysters, horseshoe crabs, seahorses and more.

The all-ages event includes kid-friendly activities, such as marine-themed arts and crafts and a Discovery Station

If you go

Submerge NYC
Pier 26 at N. Moore St.
Hudson River Park
11a.m.- 4 p.m.
Saturday, Sept. 24

where they can "meet" live animals in an interactive touch tank.

For those who want to get out on the water, free kayaking and catch-and-release fishing will be available. Refuel with offerings from food trucks Melt, Gorilla Cheese and Yaki Taco.



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Smithsonian magazine

The North American country has centuries of ruins to explore.

Hilltop fortresses, riverfront temples and pyramids that peek out of steamy jungles dot Mexico's landscape, with historical sites that span many centuries. Though many were built by the Mayans and the Aztecs, some were the work of ancient peoples whose secrets have yet to be unlocked. Dive into Mexico's unique history by checking out our picks for the country's 10 best archaeological treasures.

MARK SULLIVAN

Teotihuacan

Nearly as wide at the base as the Great Pyramid of Giza, Teotihuacan's neatly stepped Pyramid of the Sun rises majestically from the plains northeast of present-day Mexico City. Formerly one of the largest capitals in the world, Teotihuacan is now shrouded in

Mexico's most amazing ruins



The Pyramid of the Sun and the Avenue of the Dead in Teotihuacan. **ALL PHOTOS DEAGOSTINI, GETTY IMAGES**

mystery. Archaeologists aren't even certain what people occupied this 2,000-year-old city.

now a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Stroll down the temple-lined Avenue of the Dead

to the Pyramid of the Moon, the best vantage point for taking in the entire city.

Tula

A quartet of stout stone
warriors stand guard atop
the five-tiered Pyramid

of Quetzalcoatl, the breathtaking centerpiece of the ancient city of Tula. The pyramid is named for

Shoulder Arthritis Treatments Keeping Boomers Active Into Their 60's, 70's Even 80's?

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This fresco in Bonampak was created by the Mayans in the ninth century.

the elaborately feathered serpent whose image is found all around this sprawling

temple complex north of Mexico City. The Toltec capital, which reached its height around a millennium ago, includes the Burnt Temple, a regal setting lined with dozens of pillars.

Templo Mayor

Unearthed in 1978 by workers repairing power lines, the 14th-century Templo Mayor sits just off the main square in Mexico City. One of the main temples in the Aztec capital of Tenochtitlan, it was where captives from rival peoples

— as many as 10,000 at a time — were sacrificed to the blood-thirsty god of war. Seven rows of leering stone skulls greeted them as they met their fate.

One of Mexico's crown jewels, it's also a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Monte Alban

Once home to the "Cloud People," the mountain-top temple complex of Monte Alban does seem close to the sky. At this spectacular archaeological site, occupied a millennium ago by the Zapotec people, you'll find dozens of intriguing carvings of "Danzantes," or "Dancers." Although their undulating outlines suggest movement, the figures are now thought to depict bound prisoners. Home to hundreds of tombs that have yielded impressive cache of gold and jade, Monte Alban is a nine-mile drive from Oaxaca.

Mitla

The mesmerizing abstract patterns carved into the stonework at Mitla are found nowhere else in Mexico. The other distinguishing characteristic is the vivid red pigment still adorning many of the temple walls. Occupied by the Mixtec people until the 16th century, when it was largely demolished by the Spanish (look for

some stones in the wall of the nearby cathedral), this religious center was considered a gateway to the world of the dead. An hour's drive from Oaxaca, Mitla is well worth the trip.

Bonampak

Although most Mayan ruins are now unadorned stone, the ancient city of Bonampak in modern-day Chiapas is a peek at a world in Technicolor. Atop a small pyramid you'll find one of the most eye-popping examples of Mayan painting: the Temple of the Murals, where three rooms depict a glorious battle scene. The frescoes, painted in 790, are still-vivid shades of red, gold and a luminous blue-green.

Yaxchilan

Reachable by boat, this riverfront temple complex sits on the banks of the Rio Usumacinta in Chiapas, across from Guatemala. Shaded by century-old ceiba trees, Yaxchilan is known for its elaborate stonework — look for

delicately carved lintels above doorways and filigree patterns decorating the roofs. This was a Mayan stronghold, dominating smaller cities like nearby Bonampak with its military might.

Palenque

If you have trouble imagining what life was like in Mayan times, head to Palenque. Startlingly intact, it feels more like a city than any other archaeological site in Mexico. You'd need weeks to fully explore everything, from the palace with 30-foot-tall pillars to the royal tomb where you'll discover a queen's sarcophagus colored with cinnabar. Don't miss the Temple of the Inscriptions, where the nine tiers correspond to the nine lords of the underworld.

Chichen Itza

Thousands of travelers descend on Chichen Itza in Yucatan every day, and with good reason: The perfectly restored pyramid known as "El Castillo," or "The Castle,"

is one of Mexico's most unforgettable sights. Don't stop there, though, because Chichen Itza was one of the largest Mayan cities and is well worth a few days of exploration. If time is short, head to the "Templo de los Guerreros" (Temple of the Warriors), with its acrobatic sculpture of a reclining figure, or "El Caracol" (The Snail), one of the few round buildings built by the Mayans.

Tulum

A spectacular setting facing the Caribbean Sea makes this compact archeological site a must-see. The main temple sits atop a 40-foot limestone cliff, offering unbeatable views of the aquamarine waters below. Carvings on the columns depict the plumed serpent Ku-kulcan, one of many ties Tulum has to the Toltecs of Tula. The "Templo del Dios Descendente," or "Temple of the Descending God," got its name from the carving over the doorway of a winged deity plummeting to earth.

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Lugo gets the ball for Mets

Seth Lugo is slated to get the start tonight at Citi Field against the Phillies, the start of a four-game set against Philadelphia. Lugo is 4-2 this season for the Mets with a 2.35 ERA. The Phillies will counter with Adam Morgan, who has a 2-10 record with a 5.57 ERA in 2016.

GETTY IMAGES



Sterling Shepard has wowed in his first two NFL games. GETTY IMAGES

Giants rookie Shepard will only get better

The Giants are going all in on their third big play wide receiver.



KRISTIAN DYER
@KristianRDyer
sports@metro.us

up with the big catch, makes the big plays. He's going to be Rookie of the Year."

Shepard's emergence is a huge development for the Giants' offense.

In the slot, he can be a formidable addition to a receiving corps that also includes Victor Cruz as well as Beckham. He also has shown an ability down the field to block which has helped the ground game get into traction behind a poor offensive line.

Eli Manning had 368 yards passing in Sunday's win and should only improve as Shepard continues to grow.

"There's still a few things we can honestly clean up and learn from, but a lot of good things," Manning said. "I thought all of them made some tough catches. Sterling made some tough catches in the middle. Some scramble drills. Some timing stuff. We were on time. A lot of good things and we'll clean up the others. I feel excited about the weapons we have. Not just those three receivers but the tight ends and running backs as well. Offensive line played well and I thought we had good communication. Solved a lot of their looks and gave us an opportunity to make some big plays."

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METS CONTINUE TO SCRATCH AND CLAW FOR PLAYOFF BERTH

SID
ROSENBERG

OPINION

Sid Rosenberg co-hosts 'The Bernie and Sid Show' on WABC in New York. You can reach him on Twitter @SidRosenberg



With only 10 regular-season games remaining, and despite a slew of injuries, the New York Mets have somehow managed to stay in this National League Wild Card race.

As a lifelong Mets fan, I will admit I didn't think we would be in this position six weeks ago, but we are and I couldn't be happier. I honestly thought that the Mets were in big trouble when they lost David Wright and Matt Harvey for the season but the team has managed to keep it together and make a playoff push. This just goes to show you how strong the Mets organization has become over the past six seasons under the guidance of Sandy Alderson and Terry Collins.

Collins and Alderson have built a culture where players are comfortable jumping to the big leagues and contributing at a steady clip. Whether it be top prospects in the farm system or journeymen, the Mets' attitude has made for a clubhouse that has allowed players to grow into their roles and execute on a regular basis. Thus, the Mets are continuing to turn heads when people look at the Wild Card standings and see them at the top. It is puzzling.

Noah Syndergaard, Jacob deGrom, Steven Matz, Yoenis Cespedes, Michael Conforto and Travis d'Arnaud are arguably the Mets' best players who are currently not on the DL and they have all struggled for a good part of the second half of the season. All of these guys have also been on the DL themselves at some point after the All-Star break, and it has opened up opportunities for the Mets' reinforcements to step in and show their worth. They have done just that and more.

Rene Rivera, T.J. Rivera, Seth Lugo, Robert Gsellman, and Matt Reynolds have all had their moments and are a big part of why the Mets are in the position they are right now. We can say that they got lucky, but when it comes down to it Terry Collins and the Mets veterans have made these kids comfortable and it has allowed them to not just flourish but carry the team toward the postseason.

Now, it remains to be seen if these kids can keep it up, and they will definitely be tested in October if they get there. Wright and Harvey will not see the field again in 2016 and that means that the youngsters will need to be counted on down the stretch. With what we have seen from these players it looks as though they are ready to take on the challenge just as Harvey, Syndergaard and Matz had done in their first postseason appearances. They are showing they have the confidence and the veterans on the Mets are doing a fantastic job teaching what they need to know about playing in the big leagues.

If everything comes together at the end of the 2016 season, the Mets will be looking at a roster filled with young players who have experience, adversity and the postseason. With that combination moving forward, the future for the Mets is even brighter than we may have thought.



Catcher Rene Rivera and the rest of the Mets are trying to scrap together one final burst to get into the 2016 MLB postseason. GETTY IMAGES

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GRAB PITTA, ENUNWA, BUT MOVE ON FROM LANGFORD

BILL DUBIEL

OPINION

Bill Dubiel is a fantasy football expert for Rotoballer.com.



With two weeks in the books, we can start drawing some conclusions about players' roles moving forward.

Dennis Pitta benefiting from chemistry with Flacco
After a relatively quiet Week 1, Dennis Pitta emerged as Joe Flacco's go-to option in the passing game in the Ravens Week 2 victory over the Browns. Pitta racked up nine catches and 102 receiving yards on a whopping 12 targets. Flacco and Pitta have a solid professional and personal relationship, and that chemistry is finally translating to on-field production now that Pitta is 100 percent healthy. The veteran tight end might already be the most reliable fantasy option in that offense, particularly in PPR formats.

Enunwa continues to rack up targets

NFL sleepers of the week

Each week we will identify three players worth taking a shot on in deeper leagues.

Kenyan Drake, RB, Miami Dolphins – Drake figures to see an expanded role in Week 3 with Arian Foster dealing with a hamstring injury. He's a top flier in PPR formats.

Quincy Enunwa has been quietly productive as the third option in a successful Jets passing attack, as he's already tallied 14 targets through two weeks of action. He's still behind Brandon Marshall and Eric Decker in the pecking order, but with both Marshall and Decker currently dealing with minor injuries, the 24-year-old could lead the team in targets in Week 3. If he can continue to be productive with the targets he's seeing, the big-bodied receiver could develop every-week flex value.

Langford losing grip on starting job

Phillip Dorsett, WR, Indianapolis Colts – Dorsett could be in line to see more targets in Week 3 with Donte Moncrief ailing. He'll have a role regardless as the Colts run a ton of three-wide receiver sets.

Jacob Tamme, TE, Atlanta Falcons – Has 11 catches for 126 yards and a touchdown through two weeks. He could be the second option in the passing game behind Julio Jones.

Bears sophomore running back Jeremy Langford has had an uninspiring start to the season, averaging a meager 3.04 yards per carry through the first two games. He has notched a touchdown in each game, but each have been from very short yardage. Langford actually trailed Ka'Deem Carey in snaps in the first quarter of Monday's game against the Eagles before Carey left with a hamstring injury, indicating he has already lost the confidence of the coaching staff. The situation needs to be monitored closely, as Langford may lose the starting job as soon as this week.



The Jets have three top-flight receivers for Ryan Fitzpatrick to play with. GETTY IMAGES

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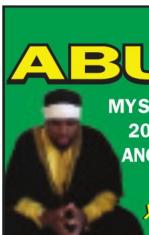
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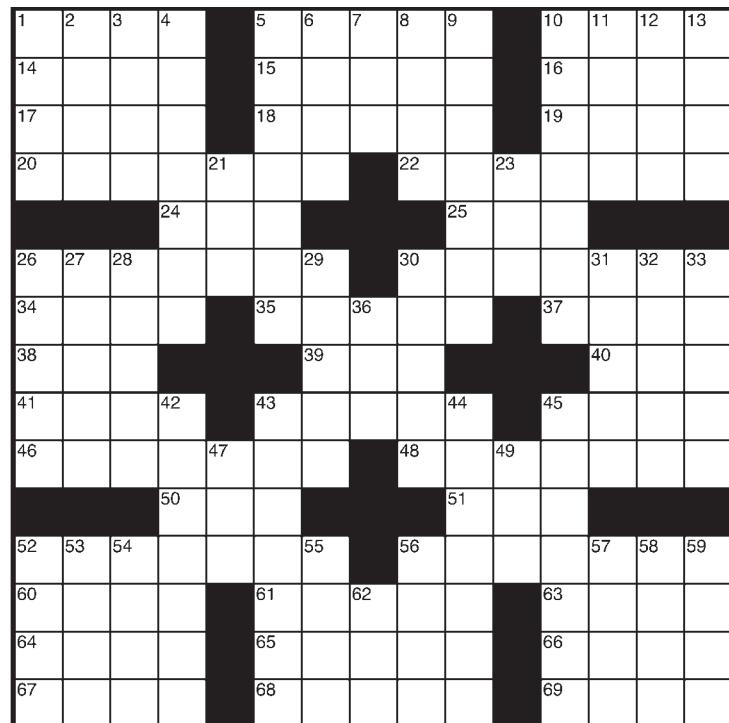
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10 Did the crawl
14 HI or AK, once
15 Kate's sitcom friend
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5 Xylophone kin
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64 Obscure
65 Wishing undone
66 Famed lioness
67 Q.E.D. part
68 Makes smooth
69 Bulrush or cattail

6 Waugh or Baldwin
7 Brownie
8 Were rivals
9 Most uncanny
10 In a catty way
11 Became frayed
12 Sandler or Arkin
13 Muddle
21 Rush off
23 Mate's comeback
26 Circle sizes
27 "Uncle Miltie"
28 Gossip tidbits
29 Jack London venue
30 Mover's rental (hyph.)
31 Where to get down
32 Wear jauntily
33 Like watermelons
36 Pentagon VIP
42 Road surface
43 Tamers with
44 News
45 Beefier
47 Sequel's sequel
49 Put money on
52 Hand signal
53 Disney CEO Bob --
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55 Water, to Juana
56 Manage for oneself
57 Groundless
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59 More than willing
62 Uproar

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	1	9		3	8		
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hard

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		2		8		6	
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	8		7	5	2	9	

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Aries You should make special plans that will bring you closer to someone who intrigues you. Share your vision and your ambitions.



Taurus An emotionally fraught matter will get blown out of proportion if you or a colleague becomes aggressive. Refuse to get drawn into a vulnerable position.



Gemini You need to show greater creativity when you are dealing with peers or presenting your work. Someone will offer you an opportunity based on your actions.



Cancer Don't take part in gossip or share personal information. Work on a project that will require your undivided attention and unique and creative skills.



Leo Keep your emotions out of any situation that involves money. Joint ventures will not pan out as hoped, leaving you in an awkward position.



Virgo Try not to complain or question what others do. Focus inward and aim to do things that will make you feel good about yourself and your contributions.



Libra Learn as you go. Let your instincts and intuition help you find your strengths. Courage comes from doing what you believe is right.



Scorpio Don't spend money foolishly. If you want to help a cause, put your time and expertise to work, not your cash. Your ideas will be a far better contribution.



Sagittarius If you put more time and effort into personal relationships, you will find common ground that will help you bring about positive changes.



Capricorn Stick close to home and take measures to prevent interference from someone who is trying to make you look bad. Do what works for you.



Aquarius An experiment will turn out better than anticipated. Network with others and share your success with people who could have something to contribute to your plans.



Pisces Problems at home will escalate. Stay focused on fulfilling your duties. Letting your emotions affect your job performance will lead to more stress at home. **EUGENIA LAST**

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ASPS	M	O	D	E	L	C	O	I	L
WHOOP	P	I	T	U	P	B	A	N	A
NIL						G	U		
OSPREYS	S	M	A	R	T	I	N	S	
OKAYS	N	E	I	L	S	H	O	P	
HAN	L	E	A	D	S	E	R	A	
ETTA	P	A	T	S	B	R	A	S	
DESCEND	T	H	E	O	R	E	M		
RES									
LAMER	C	R	O	I	S	A	N	T	
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